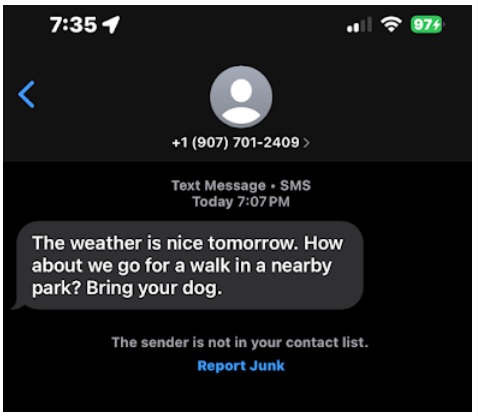
UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Thursday, September 18, 2025

If you answer...


7:35
+1 (907) 701-2409
Text Message • SMS
Today 7:07 PM
The weather is nice tomorrow. How about we go for a walk in a nearby park? Bring your dog.
The sender is not in your contact list.
Report Junk

...your dog is smarter than you.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Union News: Home Loan Initiative

Excerpt from an AFSCME sponsored proposed ballot initiative submitted to the state Attorney General on Sept. 5:

Section 9.1 is added to Article IX of the California Constitution to read:

SEC. 9.1 (a) The Regents shall administer a down payment loan program for eligible support staff of the University who are first-time homebuyers. The down payment loans shall:

(1) be equal to twenty percent of the home's value;

(2) be fully repaid along with a proportionate twenty percent share of the appreciated home value when the home is sold or refinanced;

(3) not be funded with taxpayer funds, state General Funds, or student tuition and (4) be made available only to qualified support staff who have worked for the University for at least five years.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, on or before January 1 of the year following enactment of this section, the Regents shall make available down payment loans to eligible support staff, subject to requirements that such loans be repaid with a secured shared and proportionate appreciation return on the investment. To avoid impacting the University's educational mission, the Regents shall invest a fraction of the same investment funds that have been used for University homeownership assistance programs.

(c) Beginning in the first fiscal year following enactment of this section, the total number of down payment loans the Regents provide to eligible support staff shall equal the total number of housing loans made to senior executives and faculty during the 2023-24 fiscal year. For each fiscal year thereafter, the total number of down payment loans for eligible support staff shall equal the total number of all housing loans made to senior executives and faculty in the preceding fiscal year, but no fewer than the total number of loans made to senior executives and faculty in the 2023-24 fiscal year...

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty are fighting back
- Faculty Lawsuit Demands Public Access to Trump Administration's Settlement Demands on University of California
- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy
- Stand up for values in the face of Trump's $300 million cut to UCLA scholars
- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education - 9/28/2025
- Liner Note 38. The University of California's Charlie Kirk Tribute Act - 9/16/2025
- Why Should We "Stand Up for the UC?" (Guest Post) - 9/1/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

politics (2187) UC (2046) UC Regents (1853) health care (1409) State Budget (1259) governor (1105) UC budget crisis (954) UC-Berkeley (890) diversity (879) pension (655) pensions (589) admissions (528) tuition (523) athletics (505) CSU (401) transportation (385) UC-Davis (373) online education (338) UCOP (304) uc retirement

Full initiative at https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/initiatives/pdfs/25-0018%20%28UC%20Down%20Payment%20Loans%29.pdf.

Note: Gathering sufficient signatures and then promoting ballot initiatives typically involves millions of dollars.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Straws in the Wind - Part 104

From the Denver Post: *The University of Denver is doing away with practices and programs supporting students of color and other marginalized scholars out of fear that the school could lose federal funding under a presidential administration hostile toward diversity. The rollbacks apply to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, which often help people of color, LGBTQ students and low-income residents have equal access to educational opportunities. The Trump administration has railed against DEI, threatening to pull funding from institutions that have these initiatives, claiming they represent unlawful discrimination.*

Chancellor Jeremy Haefner told The Denver Post that inclusivity remains a core value at DU and vowed the federal government will not strongarm the campus into shirking from that...

Haefner announced the changes in a letter to the private liberal arts college's community last month, writing that DU was eliminating:

- *Scholarships, internships, mentorships or leadership programs intended for a specific racial group or that target underserved geographic areas*
- *Prompts on student or employee applications asking applicants to describe overcoming an obstacle or provide a diversity statement*
- *Spaces designated for specified groups, such as a study area for students of color, even if the spaces are open to all*
- *DEI training*

In the letter, Haefner wrote that he was "deeply disappointed" by the U.S. Department of Justice's interpretation of the law surrounding DEI and its potential consequences. Still, he said he does not believe the university will lose students of color...

Full story at https://www.denverpost.com/2025/09/07/university-of-denver-dei-trump/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, public funding

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 60

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard has paused plans to renovate four University libraries ahead of its 400th anniversary in 2036 as part of a temporary halt to capital projects amid an ongoing fight with the White House over federal funding.*

Renovation plans for Widener, Lamont, Pusey, and Houghton libraries were announced in April 2024, but construction had not begun on the first project before Harvard's funding battle with Washington caused the project to come to a halt.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences paused spending projects deemed "non-essential" in April after the Trump administration paused $2.2 billion in grants to Harvard...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/9/15/library-renovations-on-hold/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, politics, public funding

The AI Poll

The Regents today will be discussing AI and its implications for UC. Included in their agenda is a summary of a survey of faculty about AI. No details about the survey itself - number responding and response rate, precise questions, etc. - are included.

(299) ucrp (298) audio (291) traffic (290) new hotel-conference center (282) UC enrollment (279) enrollment (255) UC-San Diego (252) community colleges (236) LAO (223) UC-Irvine (182) fund raising (165) UC-San Francisco (157) UC-Santa Barbara (156) UC-Santa Cruz (155) controller (146) faculty center (142) UC-Riverside (139) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (121) UC-Merced (112) faculty pay (109) Master Plan (102) Yudof (90) UCRS retirement (62) Faculty Association at UCLA (60) parking (60) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (34) copyright (32) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (21) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) Regents (14) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

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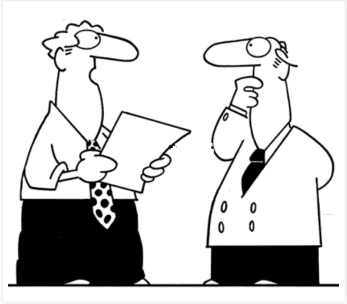
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association



2025 UC Systemwide Faculty AI Survey – Topline Summary

The University of California conducted its first systemwide Faculty AI Survey this spring (April 29-May 23, 2025), inviting faculty and academic appointees across all campuses to participate.

The goal of this inaugural survey was to collect timely information about AI awareness, adoption, opportunities, challenges, and training needs across UC's academic enterprise.

Key Findings

Faculty Perspectives and Usage

• Nearly 70% of faculty respondents to the survey indicated that they agree or strongly agree with the statement "AI-powered tools and technologies will play a critical role in the future of my field."

• A majority of faculty indicated that they are using, or intend to use, AI tools for research methods, data analysis, and teaching and student engagement.

> Most common current and anticipated future AI uses identified by UC faculty include: literature review; coding and thematic analysis of qualitative data; manuscript writing; grant writing and proposal development; data analysis, interpretation, and visualization; research design and methodology development; and data cleaning and pre-processing.

Benefits Identified by Faculty

• Enhancing data analysis and research efficiency

• Automating routine academic and administrative tasks

• Preparing students for an AI-integrated workforce

Select Challenges

• AI-generated errors and misinformation

• Impact on student learning, critical thinking, and originality

• Difficulty detecting AI-generated contents

• Concerns about data privacy, bias and equity, intellectual property

Training Needs

Faculty respondents expressed the greatest interest in trainings on:

• AI for research methods and data analysis (60% of respondents)

• AI for teaching and student engagement (55%)

• Ethical AI use / Environmental and ethical concerns (42%)

• Hands-on technical training and policy/regulatory issues (35–40%)

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Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/sept25/b3attach.pdf.

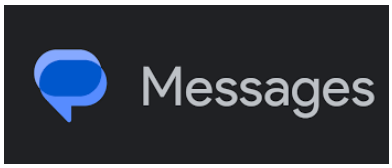
Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: UC Regents

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Two Messages on the Situation

A message from President Milliken to the UC community



September 15, 2025

https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/employee-news/a-message-from-president-milliken-to-the-uc-community/

Dear UC community,

I know that many of you are closely following the federal administration's actions against UCLA — including the suspension of critical research funding this summer and a demand that the university pay the federal government over $1 billion. Today, the LA Times published a story summarizing some of the administration's demands.

As we consider the unprecedented action against UCLA, it is important to keep in mind that the federal government is also pursuing investigations and actions in various stages against all 10 UC campuses. So, while we are first focused on the direct action involving UCLA, we must also consider the implications of expanded federal action.

This represents one of the gravest threats to the University of California in our 157-year history. Losses of significant research and other federal funding would devastate UC and inflict real,

long-term harm on our students, our faculty and staff, our patients, and all Californians. It would also end life-saving research from which all Americans benefit.

Let me provide a little more context about what's at stake. The University of California receives more than $17 billion each year in federal support. That includes $9.9 billion in Medicare and Medicaid funding, $5.7 billion for research and program support, and $1.7 billion in student financial aid.

The funds at risk support the doctors and nurses who care for millions of Californians each year, the researchers working to find new cures and make important technological discoveries, and the financial aid that keeps UC accessible for students of all backgrounds. A substantial loss of this federal funding would be devastating for our mission and for the people who depend on us most. It will mean fewer classes and student services, reduced access to health care, tens of thousands of lost jobs across the state, and an exodus of world-class faculty and researchers to other states or countries.

Many of our campuses have already experienced layoffs and other negative impacts in recent months because of cuts to federal research funding and other financial pressures. But this is minor in comparison to the threat that looms. As the state's second-largest employer, with a presence in every county in California, these reductions would have a detrimental ripple effect across the entire state economy.

The work happening across UC saves lives, drives economic growth and creates opportunity for families in every community. Far too many people depend on us for the University to retreat from its mission. We must do all we can to avoid the harmful possibilities I've outlined. That's why we are working with elected officials in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., to evaluate every option to resolve this conflict to continue serving communities across the state.

The University of California has weathered many challenges since its founding. We will do so again — but it will undoubtedly be a difficult process for our community. The fact is that we are in uncharted waters. Our top priority now is protecting this institution — its resources, its mission and its values — for the sake of everyone we serve.

I ask all of you to come together as a community — in support of our students, our patients and one another — as we navigate what lies ahead. It will take all of us working together to protect UC, the greatest public university in the nation.

With deep gratitude,

James B. Milliken

UC President

==========

Sharing an Update on Federal Research Funding (Email)

Office of the UCLA Chancellor

Sept. 15, 2025

Dear Bruin Community:

UC President James B. Milliken shared a statement with the University of California community this morning regarding the suspension of federal research funding, and I want to share it with you here.

This is a critical moment for the UC system and for our community. At UCLA, the suspension of federal research funding threatens our ability to pursue life-saving and life-changing research, undermines our capacity to fulfill our academic mission, and disrupts the work and careers of our scholars and staff.

The consequences extend well beyond our campus. They represent a direct threat to scientific progress and innovation that benefits not only California but people around the world. Whether it is pioneering medical treatments, protecting national security or confronting global public health challenges, UCLA research plays a vital role in improving lives.

As President Milliken writes, this is one of the most significant threats UC has faced in its history. It is critical that we stand together and stay connected — and continue to defend our core values, including academic freedom.

We are working around the clock with our partners across the UC system and with leaders at the state and federal levels to resolve this situation, and I will continue to keep you updated. Thank you for your dedication to our mission.

We are One UCLA.

Julio Frenk

Chancellor

Posted by California Policy Issues at 6:12 PM No comments:

Labels: Milliken, politics, public funding, UC, UCLA

One Suit Settled

Note: The Internet Archive is the home of the Wayback Machine that allows a look at the web at earlier dates. https://web.archive.org/ Items that are taken down can often be retrieved. It is also the home of a vast digital library of video, audio, print, and photographs. https://archive.org/ The lawsuit described below could have potentially killed it. This blog often uses the Internet Archive to preserve or supply video and audio.

From Rolling Stone: *Several major record labels and rights holders have settled their $621 million copyright infringement suit against the Internet Archive over its efforts to digitize, preserve, and share 78 rpm records. Attorneys for both sides filed the joint notice of settlement today in the California district court. It states only that the various plaintiffs — led by Universal Music Group and Sony Music Entertainment — and the Internet Archive "have settled this matter." Terms of the settlement are still "pending," and once they're hashed out, both sides will file a stipulation to dismiss the case. That is expected to arrive within 45 days. A post on the Internet Archive's blog read only: "The parties have reached a confidential resolution of all claims and will have no further public comment on this matter." A lawyer for the plaintiffs declined to comment. The Recording Industry Association of America said, "The parties have reached a confidential resolution of all claims and will have no further public comment on this matter."*

The focus of the lawsuit was the Internet Archive's Great 78 Project, which officially started in 2017 and aimed to digitize the shellac discs that were the dominant medium for recorded music from the 1890s until the 1940s and 1950s, when vinyl arrived. With the help of audio preservationist George Blood (who was also named as a defendant in the suit), the Archive said it has digitized more than 400,000 of these old recordings.

...The Archive... has always billed itself as a research library (albeit a digital one), and its supporters saw the label's suit — along with a similar one brought by book publishers — as an attack on preservation efforts and public access to the cultural record...

Full story at https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/internet-archive-labels-settle-great-78-copyright-lawsuit-1235427887/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:40 PM No comments:

Labels: copyright

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